

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A wireless communication device comprising:

5 a first housing portion having a first exterior surface;

a second housing portion having a second exterior surface, the second housing portion capable of being arranged in a first closed position relative to the first housing portion and in a second open position relative to the first housing portion;

10 a transceiver situated within one of the first and second housing portions, the transceiver coupled to an antenna for transmitting and receiving radio frequency signals; and

15 at least one external key situated on one of the first and second exterior surfaces, the at least one external key capable of being activated by a user when the second housing portion is arranged in the closed position for defining a call recipient and for initiating a call to the call recipient.

2. The wireless communication device of claim 1 wherein the first housing portion further includes an interior surface, wherein the second housing portion covers the interior surface of the first housing portion when the second housing portion is arranged in the closed position and
20 uncovers the interior surface of the first housing portion when the second housing portion is arranged in the open position.

3. The wireless communication device of claim 1 wherein one of the first and second

exterior surfaces further comprises a microphone capable of receiving acoustic signals when the second housing portion is arranged in the closed position.

4. The wireless communication device of claim 1 wherein one of the first and second exterior surfaces further comprises a speaker capable of generating acoustic signals when the second housing portion is arranged in the closed position.

5. The wireless communication device of claim 1 wherein the at least one external key is further capable of being activated for selecting a directory of call recipients and for selecting one of the call recipients.

6. The wireless communication device of claim 5 further comprising a display on the second exterior surface, the display configured to display the directory of call recipients and the selected one of the call recipients when the second housing portion is arranged in the closed position.

7. The wireless communication device of claim 6 wherein the display in a multi-line liquid crystal display.

8. The wireless communication device of claim 1 wherein the at least one external key is further capable of being activated for receiving a user input corresponding to a call recipient's phone number.

9. The wireless communication device of claim 1 wherein the call is a single-duplex

communication call.

10. A wireless communication device comprising:

a first housing portion having a first exterior surface;

5 a second housing portion having a second exterior surface, the second housing portion capable of being arranged in at least two different positions relative to the first housing portion including a first position and a second position such that when the second housing portion is arranged in the first position, a first dimension of the wireless communication device is smaller than a corresponding dimension of the wireless
10 communication device when the second housing portion is arranged in the second position;

a transceiver situated within one of the first and second housing portions, the transceiver coupled to an antenna for transmitting and receiving radio frequency signals;
and

15 at least one external key situated on one of the first and second exterior surfaces, the at least one external key capable of being activated by a user when the second housing portion is arranged in the first position for defining a call recipient and for initiating a call to the call recipient.

20 11. The wireless communication device of claim 10 wherein the first housing portion further includes an interior surface, wherein the second housing portion covers the interior surface of the first housing portion when the second housing portion is arranged in the first position and uncovers the interior surface of the first housing portion when the second housing portion is

arranged in the second position.

12. The wireless communication device of claim 10 wherein the at least one external key is further capable of being activated for selecting a directory of call recipients and for selecting one
5 of the call recipients.

13. The wireless communication device of claim 12 further comprising a display on the second exterior surface, the display configured to display the directory of call recipients and the selected one of the call recipients when the second housing portion is arranged in the first
10 position.

14. The wireless communication device of claim 13 wherein the display is a multi-line liquid crystal display.

15 15. The wireless communication device of claim 10 wherein the at least one external key is further capable of being activated for receiving a user input corresponding to a call recipient's phone number.

16. The wireless communication device of claim 10 wherein the call is a single-duplex
20 communication call.

17. A method for operating a wireless communication device including a first housing portion and a second housing portion, the second housing portion capable of being arranged in a

first closed position relative to the first housing portion and in a second open position relative to the first housing portion, the method comprising:

enabling for activation at least one external key situated a first exterior surface of one of the first and second housing portions when the second housing portion is arranged in the first closed position; and

defining a call recipient responsive to input signals received via the at least one external key.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising initiating a call to the call recipient responsive to input signals received via the at least one external key.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the call is a single-duplex communication call.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein the defining the call recipient comprises selecting a directory of call recipients responsive to input signals received via the at least one external key.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the defining the call recipient further comprises selecting one of the call recipients responsive to input signals received via the at least one external key.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the wireless communication device further comprising a display a second exterior surface of one of the first and second housing portions, the display configured to display the directory of call recipients and the selected one of the call recipients.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the display in a multi-line liquid crystal display.

24. The method of claim 17 wherein the defining the call recipient comprises defining a call

5 recipient's phone number responsive to input signals received via the at least one external key.